

WHAT'S NEW QUIZ QUESTION ANSWERS

While *The World Factbook* staff works to keep the *Factbook* as current as possible, and weekly uploads are announced on the Internet via a What's New statement, there are times where there is nothing of outstanding importance to report. On those occasions, quiz questions have been composed with the aim of getting visitors to explore certain parts of the *Factbook*.

Since 2010, over 150 quiz questions have appeared; the answers to all of them may be found below.

June 4, 2020

The greatest distance between two capitals of countries sharing a border is the distance between Moscow (Russia) and Pyongyang (North Korea) – 6,243 km (3,991 mi).

The greatest distance between one national capital and the capital closest to it is the distance between Canberra (Australia) and Wellington (New Zealand) – 2,330 km (1,448 mi).

May 23, 2019

The five countries with one-syllable names are: Chad, France, Greece, Laos, and Spain.

March 14, 2019

The bulk of the Kalahari Desert lies in Botswana, but parts also extend into Namibia and South Africa.

February 21, 2019

The two bodies of water connected by the Bosphorus are the Black Sea and Sea of Marmara.

February 7, 2019

Tasmania is a large island off the southeastern coast of Australia.

January 24, 2019

The three countries that border Lake Victoria are: Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda.

January 16, 2019

The Yucatan Peninsula is shared between Belize, Guatemala, and Mexico.

January 10, 2019

The words unscrambled spell: Spain, Nepal, Peru, Iran, Algeria, and Israel.

January 3, 2019

The words unscrambled spell: Laos, China, Yemen, Italy, Mali, and Oman.

December 14, 2018.

The two 'A' countries that don't end in an 'A' are Afghanistan and Azerbaijan.

October 18, 2018

South Africa has three capitals: Pretoria (administrative capital), Cape Town (legislative capital), and Bloemfontein (judicial capital).

October 11, 2018

The Black Sea laps on to these six countries: Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, Russia, Turkey, and Ukraine.

September 13, 2018

The flag of Mauritius is the only one in the world that consists of four horizontal color bands: red, blue, yellow, and green.

September 6, 2018

Madagascar is the world's fourth largest island and contains an amazing amount of unique biota.

August 23, 2019

The two crown dependencies that make up the Channel Islands are Guernsey and Jersey.

August 9, 2018

The two Atlantic archipelagos that are part of Portugal are the Azores and Madeira.

June 28, 2018

Belgium is smaller than Costa Rica, Croatia, Denmark, Serbia, or Switzerland.

June 21, 2018

The five African countries by decreasing population size are: Nigeria, Egypt, Morocco, Senegal, and Tunisia.

May 16, 2018

The four countries that prominently display only two stars on their flag are: Panama, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Sao Tome, and Syria.

May 3, 2018

The Amazon River originates on a mountainside in Peru.

April 11, 2018

At the very heart of international trade in the last centuries B.C. and early centuries A.D., Alexandria's rulers were uniquely positioned to purchase and/or confiscate a vast quantity of manuscripts and texts to bolster their Library.

April 5, 2018

Japan's four Home Islands are: Hokkaido, Honshu, Kyushu, and Shikoku.

March 29, 2018

The two countries surrounding the Gulf of Tonkin are China and Vietnam.

March 22, 2018

The nine countries bordering the Baltic Sea are: Denmark, Finland, Germany, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, and Sweden.

March 15, 2018

South America's two landlocked countries are Bolivia and Paraguay.

March 9, 2018

The 16 landlocked African countries are: Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Niger, Rwanda, South Sudan, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

February 23, 2018

The seven countries that make up the Arabian Peninsula are: Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Yemen, and the United Arab Emirates. Small parts of Iraq and Jordan also extend into the Peninsula.

February 16, 2018

In addition to Brazil, the four Southern Hemisphere countries that show the Southern Cross on their flag are: Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, and Samoa.

February 1, 2018

A temperature of 98 degrees Fahrenheit is equivalent to 37 degrees Celsius.

January 19, 2018

Bolivia is the South American country with the most official languages – 37 in total.

January 11, 2018

The three countries that share Lake Victoria are Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda.

December 22, 2017

Luxembourg is the world's only Grand Duchy.

December 1, 2017

Kolonia is the former capital of the Federated States of Micronesia.

November 9, 2017

The two countries with six colors in their national flags are South Africa and South Sudan.

August 25, 2017

Sumatra is the largest entirely Indonesian island.

August 18, 2017

There are 193 UN member countries. The only two non-member countries are Kosovo and the Holy See (Vatican).

July 28, 2017

Wake Island serves as a useful mid-Pacific refueling stop and emergency landing area for aircraft.

July 21, 2017

If it's 3pm in Washington, DC it's 5am the next day in Tokyo (14 hours ahead of Washington, DC, during Standard Time).

July 14, 2017

India was considered to be the "Jewel in the Crown" of the British Empire. Chennai was formerly referred to as Madras and Mumbai was called Bombay.

July 7, 2017

Cuba's Isle of Youth lies off its southwestern coast.

June 23, 2017

The eight countries that border the Red Sea are: Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Djibouti, Eritrea, and Sudan.

May 11, 2017

Chile's population is mostly concentrated in its middle third.

April 26, 2017

Lebanon is the smallest country **on** the Asian continent. (Maldives is a smaller Asian country but consists of islands off the coast of India.)

April 20, 2017

Lake Titicaca is shared between Bolivia and Peru.

April 12, 2017

The three countries that share the island of Borneo are: Brunei, Indonesia, and Malaysia.

April 6, 2017

The isles that claim to be the "Gems of the Antilles" are Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

March 30, 2017

The country with the world's highest life expectancy is Monaco.

March 23, 2017

Angola's northern exclave province is Cabinda.

March 16, 2017

The Laccadive Sea is that part of the Indian Ocean that lies between the southern part of India, the Maldives, and Sri Lanka.

March 2, 2017

The 21 countries that have coastlines on the Mediterranean are: Spain, France, Monaco, Italy, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Albania, Greece, Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Israel, Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Malta, and Cyprus.

February 23, 2017

Former names for the island country of Sri Lanka were Serendib and Ceylon.

February 13, 2017

The Republic of Maldives is Asia's smallest country by area and population.

February 2, 2017

The initials UPU stand for Universal Postal Union, a UN specialized agency that promotes international postal cooperation.

January 26, 2017

Denmark's two overseas components are the Faroe Islands and Greenland.

January 6, 2017

The Canadian Arctic Archipelago - consisting of 36,563 islands, several of them some of the world's largest - contributes to Canada easily having the longest coastline in the world.

December 16, 2016

The four countries whose flags consist simply of two horizontal colored bands are: Indonesia (red and white), Monaco (red and white), Poland (white and red), and Ukraine (blue and yellow).

December 9, 2016

FAO is the abbreviation for the Food and Agriculture Organization, a UN specialized agency whose aim is to raise living standards and increase the availability of agricultural products.

December 2, 2016

The largest African countries by decreasing size are: Algeria, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sudan, Libya, Chad, Niger, Angola, Mali, and South Africa.

October 7, 2016

The Kingdom of Tonga is the only monarchy in the Pacific Ocean.

August 26, 2016

The Tuamotu Islands, part of French Polynesia, are in the Pacific Ocean.

August 12, 2016

The Mona Passage is the Caribbean waterway between the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico.

August 5, 2016

Along with Brazil, Ecuador and Colombia also straddle the Equator.

July 15, 2016

Panama is bordered by Costa Rica to its west and Colombia to its east.

July 8, 2016

The four national capitals through which the Danube flows are (from west to east): Vienna (Austria), Bratislava (Slovakia), Budapest (Hungary), and Belgrade (Serbia).

June 24, 2016

Equatorial Guinea's capital city of Malabo is on the island of Bioko in the Atlantic Ocean.

June 17, 2016

The 11 Line Islands stretch for 2,350 km in the Pacific Ocean; eight of the islands form part of Kiribati and the other three are US territories.

June 10, 2016

The Andaman Sea is a marginal sea of the eastern Indian Ocean.

June 3, 2016

The six countries that border the Arctic Ocean are: Canada, Denmark (Greenland), Iceland, Norway, Russia, and the United States (Alaska).

May 19, 2016

The smallest African country is the Seychelles archipelago off the eastern coast of the continent.

May 6, 2016

Slovenia has 212 ADM1s (administrative divisions), easily the most of any country in the world.

April 29, 2016

Bechuanaland is the former name of Botswana.

April 15, 2018

Milwaukee Deep, the deepest part of the Atlantic Ocean (-8,605 meters; -28,230 feet), lies due north of the US island of Puerto Rico.

April 8, 2016

The four white, five-pointed stars on the flag of the Federated States of Micronesia represent its four island groups of Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Yap.

April 1, 2016

The flag of Cambodia is the only national flag to display a building – a temple from Angkor Wat.

March 17, 2016

The country thought to hold the world's largest crude oil reserves is Venezuela.

March 10, 2016

The least populous (and smallest) country in the world is the Holy See (Vatican City) with a population of about 1,000 and only 0.44 sq km in size.

February 5, 2016

The Norman Isles are in the English Channel and are more commonly referred to as the Channel Islands. The two main Islands are Guernsey and Jersey at about 49 20 N and 2 20 W.

January 29, 2016

WHO stands for the World Health Organization, which was established in 1946 and has 194 members.

January 21, 2016

The two Western Hemisphere countries that display the shape of a diamond (rhombus) on their flag are: Brazil and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

January 8, 2016

The seven nations that claim a portion of Antarctica are: Argentina, Australia, Chile, France, New Zealand, Norway and the United Kingdom. The claims are not recognized by the US and many other countries.

December 30, 2015

Although Egypt is 96% desert, it is watered by the Nile River, which supports the country's population of some 100 million.

December 10, 2015

There are 120 fathoms in a cable (length).

October 16, 2015

Tuvalu owns the domain extension of ".tv".

October 2, 2015

Lago de Maracaibo (Lake Maracaibo) connects to the Caribbean Sea by the 5.5 km-wide Tablazo Strait; although its water is brackish and it is often thought of as a bay, this feature is frequently referred to as a lake. If so considered, it becomes South America's largest lake

July 31, 2015

The three countries that were formerly part of the UN Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands under US administration are: the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and Palau.

July 24, 2015

The four countries that make up the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) are: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland.

July 10, 2015

The seven United Arab Emirates are: Abu Zaby (Abu Dhabi), 'Ajman, Al Fujayrah, Ash Shariqah (Sharjah), Dubayy (Dubai), Ra's al Khaymah, and Umm al Qaywayn.

July 2, 2015

The northernmost land in the world is the island of Greenland, a part of the Kingdom of Denmark.

June 26, 2015

The seven Central American countries are (from north to south): Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama.

May 29, 2015

The three 'T' countries with red and white flags are: Tonga, Tunisia, and Turkey.

August 15, 2014

Monaco has the highest life expectancy at birth.

July 10, 2014

The largest country in Central America is Nicaragua.

June 26, 2014

The Kingdom of Tonga is the only monarchy in the Pacific.

June 19, 2014

The International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) has 190 member countries.

May 8, 2014

Ceylon, Dahomey, and French Somaliland are the former names for Sri Lanka, Benin, and Djibouti, respectively.

April 30, 2014

The largest electricity producer in the world is China.

April 17, 2014

The largest country in the world composed solely of islands is Indonesia.

April 10, 2014

The seven African countries through which the Equator passes are: Sao Tome and Principe, Gabon, Republic of the Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda, Kenya, and Somalia. Note that despite its name, no part of the Equator passes through Equatorial Guinea. The mainland part of the country is located just north of the Equator.

March 6, 2014

The countries bordering the Black Sea are: Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, Russia, Turkey, and Ukraine. The peninsula that extends deeply into the Black Sea is the Crimean Peninsula.

February 6, 2014

Cuba is the northernmost, Barbados the easternmost, and Trinidad the southernmost of the Caribbean islands listed.

January 30, 2014

The two largest ethnic groups in South Sudan are the Dinka and the Nuer.

January 9, 2014

The flag of the Caucasus mountain country of Georgia displays five crosses.

November 21, 2013

Only the Pacific island country of Kiribati stretches across all four of the world's hemispheres.

November 14, 2013

The 10 countries that border Brazil are: Argentina, Colombia, Bolivia, French Guiana, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Surinam, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

November 6, 2013

The parts of Spain not in Europe are: the autonomous cities of Ceuta and Melilla plus the three small islands of Islas Chafarinas, Penon de Alhucemas, and Penon de Velez de la Gomera. Administered directly by the Spanish central government, are all along the coast of Morocco and are collectively referred to as Places of Sovereignty (Plazas de Soberania).

October 31, 2013

In order of decreasing size: Canada, United States, China, Brazil, Australia.

October 24, 2013

Portuguese is the primary language of Brazil, English the main language of Guyana, Dutch the chief language of Suriname, and French the language of French Guiana.

September 26, 2013

Qullai Ismoili Somoni is the tallest peak in Tajikistan at 7,495 meters.

May 23, 2013

The quetzal appears on the flag of Guatemala.

May 16, 2013

The Benelux countries are: Belgium, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands.

April 11, 2013

The five nations that make up the BRICS countries are: Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.

April 4, 2013

Polar mesospheric clouds (also known as noctilucent or "night shining" clouds) are tenuous, cloud-like phenomena composed of ice crystals only visible at twilight.

March 14, 2013

The merlion serves as a symbol for Singapore.

February 21, 2013

Both Dutch and French are official languages in Belgium.

January 17, 2013

Papua New Guinea is home to some 839 indigenous languages (about 12% of the world's total); many languages have fewer than 1,000 speakers.

January 10, 2013

Hong Kong is the largest self-governing entity that has no farms. All its food must be imported.

December 13, 2012

Bechuanaland, East Pakistan, and Kampuchea are former names for Botswana, Bangladesh, and Cambodia respectively.

December 6, 2012

Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest peak, is in Tanzania; Lac Assal, the continent's lowest point, is in Djibouti.

November 29, 2012

The seven Alpine countries are: Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Liechtenstein, Slovenia, and Switzerland.

October 4, 2012

China's two Special Administrative Regions are Hong Kong and Macau.

September 6, 2012

FAO stands for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

July 5, 2012

Slovenia has the largest number of first order administrative divisions of any country on earth, currently 212 of them.

June 28, 2012

The seven countries that border the Bay of Bengal are: Sri Lanka, India, Bangladesh, Burma, Thailand, Malaysia, and Indonesia.

June 14, 2012

The tune of God Save the Queen is also used for the national anthem of Liechtenstein.

May 31, 2012

The Indian Ocean archipelagic country composed of about 1,200 islands is the Republic of Maldives.

May 24, 2012

The world's smallest independent republic is the Pacific island country of Nauru.

May 10, 2012

Islands shared between countries: the island of Hispaniola is shared between the Dominican Republic (64%) and Haiti; the northern portion (57%) of the island of Saint Martin is the French overseas collectivity of Saint-Martin, while the southern section is Sint Maarten and is part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

March 22, 2012

It was in 1983 that *The World Factbook* first featured photography (black and white) in its cover design.

March 15, 2012

There are 0.0000394 inches in a micron.

March 8, 2012

The 25 *World Factbook* entities that border the Mediterranean Sea are: Akrotiri, Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Dhekelia, Egypt, France, Gaza Strip, Gibraltar, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Slovenia, Spain, Syria, Tunisia, and Turkey.

March 1, 2012

Abyssinia is the former name for Ethiopia.

February 9, 2012

The Atacama Desert is in northern Chile.

December 22, 2011

Eight countries extend into the Arctic Circle: Canada, Denmark (Greenland), Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden, and the United States (Alaska).

December 15, 2011

The flag of Brunei prominently displays hands.

December 1, 2011

Animism is the belief that non-human entities contain souls or spirits.

September 14, 2011

There are eight furlongs in a mile.

August 11, 2011

South Sudan is eight hours ahead of the Eastern Time zone of the United States.

June 16, 2011

Following the dissolution of the Soviet Union, many Russians left the former Soviet republics to return to Russia resulting in major ethnic population shifts. For Kazakhstan, the Kazakhs, who had made up less than 50% of their republic, now constitute about 63%.

May 12, 2011

There are 1.2959782 grams in a scruple.

May 5, 2011

The United States has the most airports and airfields of any country on earth.

March 25, 2011

Burkina Faso was formerly named Upper Volta.

March 10, 2011

China has the longest system of waterways in the world.

March 2, 2011

India had three megacities with populations exceeding 15 million: New Delhi, Mumbai, and Kolkata. (Note - a subsequent boundary redefinition dropped the size of Kolkata to about 12 million.)

February 16, 2011

A multi-color cover was first featured on the 1987 edition of *The World Factbook*.

February 2, 2011

ESA stands for the European Space Agency.

January 14, 2011

The highest elevation in the Netherlands is Mount Scenery (862 m) on the Caribbean island of Saba (which is considered to be an integral part of the Netherlands).

January 7, 2011

In early 2011, Libya's flag was still composed of only one color - green. With the overthrow of the Qadhafi regime later that year, a new multi-colored banner was adopted.

December 30, 2010

Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport has handled the most passengers annually since 1998.

December 23, 2010

If its noon in Washington DC, its 8pm in Nairobi, Kenya (8 hours ahead of Washington, DC, during Standard Time).

December 17, 2010

There are 17 Rare Earth Elements (REEs) that are critical in many of today's high-tech industries.

December 10, 2010

Australia's national anthem is "Advance Australia Fair."